

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Berkshire Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Berkshire Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (655) reside in the First Berkshire Representative District.. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (124) of First Berkshire Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.2% of admissions from the First Berkshire Representative District were male and 26.8% were female.
- Over 53.4% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 93.5% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.7% were black non-Latino, 1.8% were Latino, 0.3% were Asians, and 1.7% were other racial categories.
- 49.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 18.7% were married, and 22.8% reported not to be married now.
- 28.3% of admissions had less than high school education, 46.4% completed high school, and 25.3% had more than high school education.
- 40.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 5.0% of those admitted were homeless.
- 24.5% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Berkshire Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Berkshire Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	526	474	179	67	85	29	17
FY '96	542	501	182	52	67	25	13
FY '97	548	504	197	54	54	28	18
FY '98	636	570	203	60	65	41	29
FY '99	647	585	211	59	83	42	31
FY '00	619	545	240	60	75	61	38
FY '01	655	572	226	79	85	60	37

- Since FY 1996, residents of First Berkshire Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1996 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than doubled, while alcohol use increased by 14%, marijuana by 24%, cocaine by 51%, and crack use by 26%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Berkshire Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	76.4 %	5.6%	10.1%	1.1%	3.8%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin and cocaine was lower within your District.